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CNS0801 16 Sailors Graduate CNET's Networking
Administrator Pilot Course, Story by Navy
Journalist 2nd Class Eileen M. N. Kelly, CNET
Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (CNS)-- The Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) vision to train more Sailors faster, better and at less cost came into focus recently at Fleet Training Center (FTC) Naval Station Norfolk, Va.

Sixteen fleet-wide Sailors graduated from the Cisco Networking Academy Program (CNAP) at FTC Norfolk. The program is designed to teach students the skills necessary to design, build, and maintain small to medium size networks.

The 16 CNAP graduates are: Information Systems Technician Seaman Joseph H. Austin II, from the Whidbey Island-class dock-landing ship USS GUNSTAN HALL (LSD 44), Little Creek, Va.; Information Systems Technician 2nd Class James Bruce, from the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS BOONE (FFG 28), Mayport, Fla.; Information Systems Technician 1st Class (Surface Warfare-qualified) Angela Coccetti, from the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS DONALD COOK (DDG 75), Norfolk, Va.; Electronics Technician 2nd Class (Surface Warfare-qualified) Michael W. Combs, from the Spruance-class destroyer USS BRISCOE (DD 977), Norfolk, Va.; Information Systems Technician 3RD Class Brian J. Crume, from the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS MAHAN (DDG 72), Norfolk, Va.; Fire Controlman 3rd Class Ryan Daugherty, from the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), Norfolk, Va.; Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (Surface Warfare-qualified) Sarah B. Gomez, from the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS COLE (DDG 67), Norfolk, Va.; Information Systems Technician 1st Class (Surface Warfare-qualified) Kenneth C. Hannah II, from Fleet Combat Training Center Dam Neck, Va.; Information Systems Technician Seaman

David K. Hart, from the Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS NORMANDY (CG 60), Norfolk, Va.; Electronics Technician 2nd Class Raymond Kelly from Fleet Training Center Norfolk, Va.; Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (Surface Warfare-qualified) Michael P. Lambert Jr., from the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS HAWES (FFG 53), Norfolk, Va.; Electronics Technician 3rd Class Jesse C. Marek from the Wasp-class multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS BATAAN (LHD 5), Norfolk, Va.; Electronics Technician 3rd Class (Surface Warfare-qualified) David J. Moss, from the Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship USS TORTUGA (LSD 46), Little Creek, Va.; Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class (Surface Warfare-qualified) Joseph A. Sherwood, from Amphibious Group TWO, Norfolk, Va.; Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (Surface Warfare-qualified) Georgetta L. Webster, from the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS BARRY (DDG 52), Norfolk, Va.; Electronics Technician Chief Petty Officer (Surface Warfare-qualified) Michael W. Wells, from Afloat Training Group Norfolk, Va.

CNET adapted the CNAP program for the Navy to teach in a non-traditional environment using commercial off-the-shelf curriculum. The Local Training Authority, Hampton Roads, Va., implemented the program under the auspices of the Homeport Training initiative.

The Navy is experiencing the same shortage of experienced network administrators that is affecting private industry. To combat this, the Navy is adapting its training to provide the right skills and offer opportunities that promote the "whole person" concept that leads to developing career Sailors.

The Cisco Corporation established the CNAP in 1997 in anticipation of an industry shortage of experienced network

administrators. The program initially designed for college students, is normally offered over four, nine-week semesters. The pilot program adapted for the Navy consists of two semesters offered for a period of 14 weeks.

The CNAP courseware consists of web-based curriculum, hands-on labs, instructor and mentors, and assessment tools. The students are guided through the course through a series of lectures, self-paced activities and group lab activities.

The program enables students to design networks and work on projects closely related to their working environment.

In one scenario, students designed an enterprise network for a battle group that is about to deploy overseas. The student-designed network offers electronic Navy College Program for Afloat College Education courses to Sailors in the battle group.

For more information on this pilot course, contact the Chief of Naval Education and Training Public Affairs Office, at 850.452.4858, or fax queries to 850.452.4863.

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CNS0802 RDC Duty Days in Many Ways; Jump-Start Your Future by Shaping the Navy's Future, story by Lt.j.g. John Robinson, NTC Public Affairs

NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, GREAT LAKES, Ill. (CNS) -- Not many Sailors would jump at the opportunity to return to boot camp. But few Sailors realize that coming back to Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes as a Recruit Division Commander (RDC) offers a great set of benefits, including pay and advancement, plus a once in a lifetime experience to shape the future of the Navy.

"A lot of people thought I was crazy to come back here as a twilight tour," said Boatswain Mate 1st Class (Surface and Air Warfare-qualified) Robert Nobles, who is preparing to start his second tour as an RDC. "But I love this job. The rewards outweigh anything else."

The job includes a host of perks, including preferential housing and child care, special-duty pay of \$350 per month, free dry cleaning while you're training divisions, and an additional \$225 annual uniform allowance. But the biggest long-term benefit is the experience, which pays huge dividends in career advancement.

"You are in a leadership position in this job," said Senior Chief Fire Controlman (Surface Warfare-qualified) Andrew Gibson, who is also on his second RDC tour. "When I go back to the fleet, I feel that I am so much further ahead of my counterparts."

RDCs are perhaps the only Sailors who get to mold a large number of civilians into Sailors. In a three-year tour, an RDC will personally train 1,222 Sailors headed for the fleet. Every RDC who completes a 36-month tour and trains at least five divisions receives the Recruit Training Service Ribbon.

Some RDCs say they were motivated to step up to the challenge of the job by hearing various complaints in the fleet.

"Instead of being part of the problem, we can be part of the solution," said Aviation Storekeeper 1st Class (Air and Surface Warfare-qualified) Lucy Alexandrie, who is training to be an RDC. "I think this is a very rewarding job knowing that I can take part in what goes out to the fleet."

It's not easy to qualify as an RDC. Candidates must have a warfare qualification and are expected to be in top physical shape. The RTC commanding officer and command master chief personally screen each candidate.

Once the RDC completes a tour, the advancement benefits pay off almost immediately.

Sailors with the RDC Navy enlisted classification advanced at higher percentage rates than their counterparts competing for master chief, senior chief and chief petty officer, according to this year's board results. In fiscal year 2001, at the E-9 level, those who have served as RDCs advanced at 35.2 percent.

Forty percent of eligible candidates who served as RDCs were selected for chief petty officer, compared to a 25.5 percent fleet-wide advancement. For E-7, RDCs advanced at 16.2 percent, compared to an 11.9 percent rate fleet wide. The eight RDCs who submitted officer packages in fiscal year 2001 were selected for commissions.

RDCs continue to enjoy some benefits after leaving the job. Following a stint at Great Lakes, RDCs are given special consideration for coast for their next assignment.

Make no mistake: Being an RDC is one of the toughest jobs in the Navy. In addition to developing the recruits, the

RDC is also challenged to sharpen his or her own skills as a leader, counselor, instructor and manager. As a front line supervisor, the RDC leads more individuals than most chief petty officer billets.

The hours are demanding. The RDC spends an average of 126 hours per week with the division. Prospective RDCs take a second trip through boot camp during their rigorous 13-week training. Classes have anywhere from four to 50 students. The average number of an RDC class is 15. During an RDC's training, he or she is paired up with a veteran RDC before officially becoming a "red rope."

Some of the RDCs returning for a second tour have seen the results of their first RDC tour while in the fleet.

"I've been on ships and a Sailor will walk up to me and thank me for being his RDC," said Senior Chief Aviation Structural Mechanic (Air Warfare-qualified) Stanley Anasarias. "It's very rewarding to see them improving themselves. We're part of that process and it starts here."

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CNS0803 142 Military Members Earn College Credits,
Education Certificates Sailing The Deep Blue Sea,
Story by Navy Journalist 2nd Class Eileen M. N.
Kelly, CNET Staff Journalist with Airman (AW)
Clyde Smith, USS Constellation

PENSACOLA, Fla. (CNS) - "Accelerate Your Life," Today's Navy motto, rings loud and clear aboard the USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64). While "America's Flagship" sails the Arabian Gulf, 142 Sailors and Marines proved that serving in the naval service and obtaining a college education are not exclusive. The Sailors became the first to receive college degrees and education certificates while forward deployed, during a recent recognition ceremony held onboard the Kitty-Hawk-class aircraft carrier.

The ceremony, Connie's third, took place in the ship's hangar bay. Vice Adm. Charles W. Moore Jr., commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, and commander, Fifth Fleet, was the guest speaker.

"This is a fine program we have in the Navy today," said Moore. "Seeing these Sailors attain these various degrees and certificates makes me proud to be a part of this ceremony."

The Navy needs to keep up with the speed of business, and educating Sailors is proving to be beneficial to both the sea service and the Sailor. These educational opportunities are provided at low or no cost to the Sailors. The Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) program provides Sailors with college instructors who conduct the courses onboard ships. Through the NCPACE program, Sailors pay for the required course reading, and the Navy pays the tuition. In 1999, the Navy paid for more than 14,000 upper and lower division courses.

The Navy's partnership with the American Council on Education (ACE) is proving to be a retention tool, as well

as a recruiting tool. ACE recommends college credit for seamanship training, and rating [job]-specific work experience. The council evaluates more than 4,000 Navy courses and each Navy rate [career field] for recommended college credit.

The Navy also has partnerships with colleges and universities offering degrees for all enlisted ratings through distance education. These institutions offer maximum credit for Navy training and on-the-job experience. Most courses are offered through web-enabled instruction or video teletraining allowing Sailors to work on education anywhere in the world.

"I never expected to make it this far," said Fire Controlman 3rd Class (Surface Warfare-qualified) William Stanford of Chicago, Ill. Stanford works in CONSTELLATION's advanced combat direction center. "I received my associate of arts degree in general studies from University of Phoenix, Phoenix, Ariz., and it feels good to have it. I am now working on my bachelor's degree," he said. "I came into the Navy with no direction, and the Navy gave me direction and the chance to do this. I think my "A" school [initial job training] helped out the most. I received a lot of math and electronic credits from there," added Stanford.

Another pipeline for Sailors to earn college credit is through Navy college equivalency examinations. Sailors have the opportunity to take courses, identified by ACE, at certified Navy Test Centers. The test, free to Sailors, comes with recommended college credits, and is taken at test centers worldwide. During fiscal year 1999, 46,000 Sailors took this opportunity to earn college credits.

"I'm pretty happy about getting my degree, it's the first one of many," said Aviation Electronic Technician 2nd Class

Brandon Kitchen of Huntsville, Ala. Kitchen works for the carrier's aviation intermediate maintenance department and received his associate of arts degree in general education from Central Texas University, Killeen, Texas. "My family is proud of me, and they make a bigger deal about it than I do," said Kitchen, "Right now I am working on my bachelors in electronic engineering."

The Sailors find motivation with in themselves; the Navy supports that motivation by providing opportunities. "I feel pretty good, and it's an accomplishment," said Electronics Technician 3rd Class Mark Carter of Baldwin Park, Calif., who earned an associate degree from the University of Phoenix. Carter works in Connie's combat systems department. "It's a step in my education," he said, "and I had to get this to pursue a higher degree in the near future."

During the graduation ceremony, six Sailors received bachelor's degrees, 15 Sailors received certificates of achievement towards bachelor's degrees, 75 Sailors received associate's degrees, 35 received certificates of achievement toward associate's degrees, and nine received General Education Development certificates.

Go to the Navy College Program web site, www.navycollege.navy.mil, to view programs and opportunities.

Media interested in contacting the USS CONSTELLATION for more information, please contact Lt. Charlie Brown, USS CONSTELLATION public affairs officer via email at, pao@constellation.navy.mil.

For more information on the educational opportunities and programs offered by the Navy, contact the Chief of Naval

Education and Training Public Affairs Office, at
850.452.4858, or fax queries to 850.452.4863.

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CNS0804 PHILIPPINE SEA CMDMC Visits Sailors in Training,
story by Chief Journalist Rhonda Burke, NTC Great
Lakes Public Affairs

NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, GREAT LAKES, Ill. (CNS) -- Command Master Chief Mike Johnson hopped between a helo, a carrier onboard delivery aircraft and three commercial flights to get to here recently, to address Sailors in training with orders to the USS ENTERPRISE Battle Group.

Assigned to the Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG-58), Johnson told the Sailors how the deployment was going and what to expect when they reported. The Battle Group is mid-way through a deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

The visit is part of a new battle group-deployment initiative, started by the Enterprise Battle Group in December of 2000. Senior command representatives visit NTC, Great Lakes to talk to recruits in basic training and students at Service School Command with orders to ships in the battle group. The visits prepare the Sailors, many who are reporting to their first command, for duty on the ship and what to expect about the upcoming deployment.

"I think it had a very positive effect on the Sailors we visited in December and how quickly they were able to acclimate themselves to the ship," said Johnson. "It is really important to help these Sailors with their questions. Many will be meeting their assigned ship in a foreign port and that can be intimidating," he said. "I want to make sure they get there safely and ready for work."

He also wanted the Sailors to understand the role they play in foreign ports.

"You're ambassadors of the United States when you're overseas," he told the Sailors. "It is important that you understand that. We expect you to dress and behave appropriately on liberty."

Students in training said the visit helped to alleviate some fears about deployment, especially meeting the ship in a foreign port.

"This was really helpful," said Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Ernest Burrus, of Waterbury, Conn., who is attending his rate's "C" School. "I won't be so nervous about meeting up with the ship, now." Burrus said.

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CNS0805 Navy Opens New Fleet Learning Resource Center,
story by FISC Public Affairs

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- The Navy's newest Fleet Learning Resource Center recently opened at the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC), Naval Station Norfolk.

The center was developed from a partnership between the Chief of Naval Education and Training, Fleet Training Center (FTC) Norfolk, Local Training Authority Hampton Roads (LTA HR), FISC, and the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center Information Technology Unit.

"We must let our Sailors know that this facility is for them and that it is opened for their dependents as well," said Rear Adm. Paul O. Soderberg, director of logistics, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, guest speaker at the opening of the center.

Capt. Bill Kowba, commanding officer, FISC, said, "Our Sailors cannot be left behind. We have to bring outside technology to the fleet so that our Sailors can become a part of those whom remain on land."

Through the use of this center, fleet Sailors can now receive refresher training and work on their continuing education interests by way of computer-based instruction offered in two automated electronic classrooms.

Each of these two classrooms contains state-of-the-art computer and audio-visual training technologies with 24 computer workstations, two instructor workstations, SMART board technology, self-paced educational products and Internet and e-mail access.

For more information, go to <http://www.lta-hr.navy.mil/>, or
call Kim Laurent at DSN 565-0880 or (757) 445-0880, ext.
3087.

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CNS0806 Navy Pensacola's Teaching Hospital Graduates 27th
Family Practice Class, Story by Rod Duren, NH
Pensacola, Public Affairs

NAVAL HOSPITAL PENSACOLA, Fla. (CNS) --Naval Hospital (NH) Pensacola's Family Practice Residency Training program -one of four in the Navy -- graduated its 27th class recently at the National Museum of Naval Aviation by sending 12 new family physicians to medical facilities throughout the world.

The NH training program has been in operation since August 1972. The first graduation was in June 1974. The residency program is a three-year curriculum encompassing both inpatient and outpatient medicine, with an intensive emphasis on all aspects of primary care.

The two chief residents of the Class of 2001, Lt. Charles Powell and Lt. John Moore, were presented with Navy Achievement Medals. Powell is scheduled to report to Naval Ambulatory Care Clinic in New Orleans, while Moore, will be practicing at the naval hospital in Sigonella, Sicily.

The top resident teacher of the year is Lt. Elise Gordon. Her current assignment has not been determined.

The top researcher is a first-year Family Practice student, Lt. Eric Anderson. The intern, who is a native of Des Moines, Iowa, was recently presented a first-place national award for his research presentation to the 26th annual Scientific Assembly of the Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians in San Diego. The Navy doctor's presentation was of a first-ever-reported case of a patient's adverse reaction to topical fluorescein dye used in routine eye exams. The lieutenant is the son of former NH Pensacola pathologist, Capt. Dennis Anderson, who resides in the Pensacola area and drills with the reserves at the medical facility.

The other new Family Practice specialists to graduate include: Lt. Raymond Batz to Okinawa, Japan; Lt. Cmdr. Charles Benson to La Madellena, Italy; • Lt. Cmdr. Terence Grogan to Norfolk, Va.; Lt. Neal Heimer to Atsugi, Japan; Lt. Huy Nguyen to Naval Air Technical Training Center Pensacola, Fla.; Lt. Alton Parker, undetermined; Lt. Cmdr. George Semple to Camp Lejeune, NC; Lt. Cmdr. Roland Willock to Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

Most residents leave for a tour as a General Medical Officer (GMO) after completing their first year of training (as an intern) that gives most second-year students "fleet experience," says Family Practice program chairman, Capt. Tom Kersch, Medical Corps (MC). During residency training, the emphasis is on continuity of comprehensive care for the entire family, including emergency, surgical, obstetric, and inpatient and outpatient care, he says.

The residency, approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and NH Pensacola, is one of four family practice training programs in the Navy.

Graduating interns with their next assignment include: Lt. Christopher Alfonzo, Naval Operational Medicine Institute (NOMI) Pensacola, Fla.; Lt. Eric Anderson, NOMI; Lt. Anthony Biascan, NOMI; Lt. Elaine Black, San Diego, Calif.; Lt. Andrew Lin, NOMI; Lt. Steven Madhavan, National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Md.; Lt. Tracy Pistone, NH Pensacola; Lt. Michael Rothermich, NH Pensacola; Lt. Trent Schueneman, NH Pensacola.

Of the nine interns, four will report to the NOMI for Flight Surgeon training. Three return for their second year of residency and two report as GMOs to Bethesda and a ship out of San Diego.

The Overall Teacher of the Year award goes to Family Practice doctor, Lt. Cmdr. Cary Ostergaard. The Family Practice Teacher of Year is Lt. Cmdr. Mark Kiefer, MC, also of the Family Practice staff. First-year Graduate Medical Education (GME-I) Teacher of the Year is Lt. Cmdr. Rick Ahmad, MC, of the Orthopedics Department. GME-II Teacher of the Year is Lt. Cmdr. Robert Menzies, MC, a pulmonologist in the Internal Medicine Department. The GME-III Teacher of the Year is Air Force Major Dixon Freeman of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department.

Inpatient Nurse of the Year honors goes to Lt. Kim Zablan of Labor and Delivery. The Outpatient Nurse of the Year goes to Evelyn Johnson of Family Practice. In a first-time award, the residents chose Hospitalman Sonja Storey as the Corpsman of the Year. Storey is currently assigned to the Immunization Clinic NH Pensacola.

The Director of Residency Training, Cmdr. Ken Iverson, MC, and the GME Coordinator, Barbara Hart, coordinate a diverse group of training rotations for the residents at the NH, Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Keesler Air Force Base Medical Center in Biloxi, Miss., and the Naval Home in Gulfport, Miss.

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CNS0807 Aviation Survival Training Center: The Life You
Save Could Be Your Own, story by Navy Journalist
1st Class(Surface Warfare-qualified) Scott
Sutherland, NAVSTA San Diego Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. (CNS) -- A lot of us would love to go to work within driving distance of an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Or ride simulators that could rival anything at Magic Mountain. For the staff of Naval Operational Medicine Institute's Aviation Survival Training Center (ASTC), those things normally associated with vacations and "R and R" are serious equipment.

Spend a couple of minutes talking with one of ASTC's 25 enlisted and officer instructors at the Miramar detachment, you'll get a good idea what they'd name their greatest hits album: "Stress Under Pressure," literally. The survival training center's mission is as clear as the waters in their "for training only" swimming pool: train air crewmembers, officer and enlisted alike, how to survive a aircraft mishap by egressing from a sinking fuselage and water surviving.

"We train them to be familiar with the physiological situations and hazards in the aviation environment, and to employ their life support systems if they ever find themselves flying around in a 'world of hurt,'" said Lt. j. g. Ron Schoonover, an aerospace physiologist on the ASTC Miramar. "Once a pilot or crew member has to eject or jump out of an aircraft, they're in survival mode. That's why they come here - to learn how to parachute and how to fall. Then, once they're in the water, to swim or float, and be able to inflate a raft, and survive in any condition on the sea."

Students have a plethora of equipment, and techniques to use with the equipment, at their disposal. There's a low-pressure chamber, where students learn what to do if they

suffer hypoxia, a deficiency in the amount of oxygen that reaches body tissues. There's a parachute drag simulator, which helps students learn to unhook their parachutes in water. Close by is a helicopter hoist simulator to teach the proper way to hook up to a lifeline as a student is being lifted to a helicopter. Let's not forget the dunk tank, or dunker, as it is referred to, where students in a simulated aircraft hover over water waiting to be submersed. Talk about stress under pressure.

"Hands-on training gives them the sense that they know what it feels like to have their bodies under stress," said Schoonover. "Pilots or crew members might say to themselves, 'Hey, wait a minute, this guy at ASTC told me that when my lips start getting blue, or my toes start to tingle, something's going wrong.' They then realize what the problem is before a mishap occurs."

The bottom line is simple.

Keep mishaps from happening, people from dying, and equipment from being destroyed.

Students here fall into two categories - those who need refresher training every four years, and those here for the first time. Due to a recent change, Marine ground force troops from Camp Pendleton, Calif., fall into the latter category.

According to Schoonover, Marines based at both the Air Station and Camp Pendleton have increased their involvement at the survival-training center. He said the 1999 Marine Corps helicopter crash off Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego, that claimed seven lives - six Marines and one Sailor - resulted in a change adding Marines as students trained to exit a downed aircraft.

"We actually made up a new curriculum for that," he said. "So now, before Camp Pendleton Marine ground forces are deployed, they come down here and go through training. They have to undo their seatbelts, and get out of that spot. It's a worse-case scenario in a controlled environment."

Last year, ASTC dunked, dropped, and doused nearly 9,000 service members and civilians. Students come from as far away as Texas to the east, to Hawaii and Japan overseas. Schoonover hopes to increase that number this year. One of this year's students is Marine Capt. Armend Westra, a native of Holland, Mich., who is attached to an F/A-18 Hornet training squadron. He noticed the changes made to the program.

"It's a better program now because it's more realistic," said Westra, here for a refresher course.

Most instructors at ASTC are trained at the Aviation Physiology Instructor School in Pensacola, Fla. Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (Aircrew qualified) Alonzo Galloway is one of them. The Santa Monica, Calif., native said he's taught everything about human stress factors, including "a person's diet, fitness level, family life and even coffee consumption."

"All those are factors in how a person's going to react in a stressful survival situation," he said.

With all the training Galloway's received in the Navy, he is earning his bachelor's degree in aviation management. "I need two classes to finish the program," he said. With a degree in hand, he will apply for an officer commissioning program. For the long haul, he's paving his way to earning his wings of gold.

Ask the rest of the instructor corps here and you could find Sailors with similar goals and aspirations. Armed with that knowledge, students who pass through the doors at the Miramar survival training center should be guaranteed nightmare-free sleep knowing that the staff of over-achieving instructors is providing some of the best training the Navy has to offer.

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CNS0808 PHIBGRU TWO Sailors Study on the Navy's Time,
story by Navy Journalist 1st Class Janet Davis,
SURFLANT Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NWS) -- Sailors of Amphibious Group (PHIBGRU) TWO commands will find career development a lot easier now that they can study for advancement exams and college courses on the Navy's time.

"The time for these course opportunities is to be incorporated into the normal workday," said Rear Adm. James K. Moran, commander, PHIBGRU TWO. "Sailors will study on our time."

The structured education program will require PHIBGRU TWO commands to maintain at least 10 percent crew participation in college-level courses, whether in port or at sea. Deployed ships have established college programs, including Navy College Program for Afloat College Education courses, College Level Examination Program courses and distance learning, available by Internet.

Sailors, both deployed and ashore, will receive help determining course needs by accessing Sailor and Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript transcript, personal information about credits earned from Navy experience and schools available at <http://www.navycollege.navy.mil/>.

There are also plans for the establishment of a PHIBGRU TWO rating examination library that will provide Sailors with practice advancement exams.

"These tests would allow our Sailors to be better prepared for future Navy-wide exams," said Moran. "My intention is to have these tests ready for distribution as soon as possible to prepare our Sailors for the September exam."

The group-wide effort is in progress at this time, but some commands have a head start.

"When our leading petty officer arrived here in October from instructor duty, the junior Sailors asked her to help them with training in advancement, general military knowledge and warfare requirements," said Chief Aerographer's Mate (Air and Surface Warfare-qualified) Phyllis Mellinger.

The department gathered information and questions relative to the advancement test from combined resources and developed a daily two-hour training program.

"It was really a lot of fun," said Aerographer's Mate 1st Class (Air Warfare-qualified) Mary Okoniewski, the department leading petty officer who pioneered the project. "It was more interactive than an ordinary classroom and I never had to remind anyone about training. They came to me enthusiastically."

As a result of the intensified training, six of the seven aerographers on board USS BATAAN (LHD 5) who took the test during the last cycle advanced.

"I'm glad we studied everyday," said Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Kris Weible. "A lot of the subjects we studied were things we really don't deal with on an everyday basis."

All PHIBGRU TWO commands are directed to assemble rate-specific training programs following a recent PHIBGRU TWO commander's conference focused on retention and attrition.

For more information on these initiatives, go to <http://www.cns1.spear.navy.mil/subindex.htm>.

For information on PHIBGRU TWO, go to <http://www.phibgru2.spear.navy.mil/cpg2>.

CNS0809 Holzworth Assumes Command of HT-18, story by Lt.
Sky Road Webb, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

NAS WHITING FIELD, MILTON, Fla. (CNS) -- In a recent formal ceremony, Marine Corps Lt. Col. Christopher E. Holzworth IV, relieved Navy Cmdr. Paul A. Grosklags, as commanding officer Helicopter Training Squadron Eighteen (HT-18). Rear Adm. J. Kevin Moran, commander Amphibious Group TWO was the guest speaker at the ceremony held in Whiting Field's new Joint Primary Aircraft Training System Simulator Facility.

Holzworth was raised in Ft Lauderdale, Fla. and attended St. Andrew's School in Boca Raton, Fla. After graduating from the University of Virginia, he attended Marine Corps Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in April 1983. After completing the Basic School, he reported to Naval Air Training Command, Pensacola, Fla., and was designated a naval aviator in 1985.

Receiving orders to the United States Joint Forces Command, Norfolk, Va., Holzworth served from 1997 to 2000 on the commands Deployable Training Team as an observer and trainer for joint instruction and exercises. Additionally, he was a member of the command's Joint Planning Group as well as the Crisis Action Team. Holzworth was designated a Joint Specialty Officer upon completion of his tour.

Reporting to Training Wing FIVE in June of 2000, he assumed duties as Executive Officer of HT-18.

Holzworth's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with numeral "1", Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with gold star, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Grosklags will be reporting to Patuxent River, Md., as the
Director of Test and Evaluations H-60 Program Office.

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CNS0810 Signalmen do 'A' School at Sea, story by Navy
Journalist 1st Class (Surface Warfare-qualified)
Scott Sutherland and Seaman Apprentice Jannelle
Smith, NAVSTA Public Affairs

NAVAL STATION SAN DIEGO (CNS) -- San Diego has been selected as a test site for a Navy 'A' school at sea pilot program. The Chief of Naval Education and Training developed the pilot program that will allow some Sailors fresh out of basic training - who are Signalmen candidates - to forgo traditional classroom training in favor of on-the-job schooling in the Fleet.

Fifteen Navy ships from five ports are participating in the program. The largest contingency of ships is from San Diego. They are USS DECATUR (DDG 73), USS MOBILE BAY (CG 53), USS OLDENDORF (DD 972), USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45) and USS CORONADO (AGF 11). Other sites include Norfolk and Little Creek, Va., Mayport, Fla., and Bremerton, Wash.

Fifteen SM 'A' school candidates were chosen at Naval Training Center Great Lakes to participate in the program, which kicked off here on June 7. Recruits learn the same basic skills offered at the traditional six-week signalman 'A' school.

"Those skills help a signalman communicate visually," said Chief Signalman (Surface Warfare-qualified) Ronald Matous, the signalman detailer. "They learn international Morse Code, international and allied flag hoist, flashing light and semaphore procedures, along with honors and ceremonies."

According to the Director of Local Training Authority San Diego, Lt. Cmdr. Deborah Cashman, students have 90 days to complete 38 days of lessons, which includes time built in for students who need to take courses over. The lessons are CD-ROM-based computer training and curriculum books.

"The pilot program will be four hours of training a day, including computer work with some practical, hands-on training," she said. "This is going to be exciting. It's a different method to train, and if it's successful, other ratings might follow with similar programs."

Matous said the rating was a logical place to start with the 'A' school at sea pilot program because "25 percent of our signalman population comes from the striker program."

"Additionally, the school was relatively short - 25 training days - the attrition rate was low, and no additional training equipment was needed on board," said Cmdr. Anthony Cooper of CNET's public affairs office.

Strikers are Sailors without job designations that get an opportunity to pick up job skills in the fleet and at shore billets, and then apply that knowledge to pick up a rating specialty.

Matous said his first reaction to the pilot program was "extremely negative." But after learning about the computer-based training program that'll be used, and looking at the program objectively, he said he's looking forward to the results of the pilot program.

"The Navy's been moving towards the 'self-sufficient ship' idea for awhile now," he said. "Afloat Training Group's (ATG) 'train the trainer' concept comes to mind."

Train the trainer is the cornerstone of ATG's working philosophy, which is geared towards the Sailor who is actually performing the training.

"We want to make sure the trainer, who is normally a first class petty officer or chief petty officer, gets the correct information in order to train their own people," said Signalman 1st Class (Surface Warfare-qualified) David

Powell of the Naval Station's ATG Pacific headquarters and a native of Upland, Calif. "With all the transfers that occur in the Navy, it's vital that we keep up with all the changes."

One of the Sailors in the pilot program aboard DECATUR, Signalman Seaman Gabriel Gonzales of Denver, picked up his rating designation after attending seaman apprenticeship training. He's now earning his stripes by learning his rate.

"It's better to learn in the fleet instead of in the classroom," said Gonzales, "because you never get bored, and you see something new everyday."

Whether he passes or fails the program, either way, he'll remain aboard DECATUR as a crewmember. The incentive for passing the program is he'll be a Navy Signalman. If he fails, he'll more than likely learn everything there is to know in the ship's deck department.

The success of the signalman pilot program will be determined when CNET makes its final evaluation sometime this fall. Cashman said the program's success could determine whether other rates follow its lead with similar schoolhouse at sea pilot programs.

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CNS0811 Navy's Bomb Squad Visits Great Lakes with a
Mission: We're Hiring, story by JOC Rhonda Burke,
NTC Public Affairs

NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, GREAT LAKES, Ill. (CNS) -- Senior enlisted leaders in the Navy's elite explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) field visited Naval Training Center (NTC), Great Lakes, Ill., recently, to speak with leaders about the unique opportunities available to Sailors seeking a career in EOD -- the Navy's Bomb Squad.

"EOD is one of the few jobs in the fleet, where we perform our wartime mission, daily," said Master Chief Machinist's Mate (Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Surface Warfare-qualified) Jim Brooks, command master chief at the joint service EOD school, Elgin Air Force Base, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. "It is critical that we are fully manned."

The EOD community is currently 73 percent manned and the school, considered to be one of the toughest in the Navy, has a 50 percent attrition rate.

"We are hoping that, by coming to Great Lakes and talking to Sailors who are headed to EOD school and their instructors, we can mentor these Sailors before they get to EOD school," said Master Chief Boatswain's Mate (Explosive Ordnance Disposal-qualified) James Conti, command master chief for EOD Group One, San Diego.

Conti and his fellow enlisted leaders say the biggest contributing factor to attrition from EOD school is difficulty with the physical requirements.

"If we can keep them motivated during their source rating "A" schools to work out and maintain the standards they need for EOD school we think we can lower attrition," said Brooks.

The senior enlisted leaders are also hoping to stir EOD interest by speaking to students in the apprentice training division and other "A" schools about obtaining the EOD Navy enlisted classification.

"We really think we have one of the greatest jobs in the Navy," said Brooks. "We want to get the word out that we are hiring and to encourage Sailors to apply for EOD training."

The group, which also held their senior enlisted special warfare community conference at Great Lakes, plans to work with RTC and Service Schools Command, Great Lakes, Ill, to do a brief during indoctrination on the special warfare programs.

"We are here planting the seeds of this mentorship program and getting it up and running," said Master Chief Electrician's Mate (Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Air Warfare-qualified) Steve Schell, commander master chief for EOD Group Two, Norfolk, Va.

The Navy EOD unit's primary mission is to disarm and render safe any explosive devices. Originally conceptualized as simple, underwater mine disarming in World War II expanded their role enormously to include all conventional munitions, including limpet and undersea anti-ship mines, terrorists devices, nuclear weapons and chemical and biological weapons. EOD specialists, performing their mission both on land and under the surface, are regularly attached to both shore or shipboard missions and duties.

EOD unit members are qualified in static and free-fall parachute jumps as well as close and open circuit diving.

Sailors interested in learning more about the special warfare programs should contact their command career

counselor or visit

<http://www.cnet.navy.mil/eods/command/training>.

The special warfare community is currently sponsoring a recruit division at RTC comprised of recruits who are candidates for the special warfare ratings. The senior enlisted leaders will be mentoring the special warfare candidates throughout training, and attending battle stations and pass-in-review with the division.

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CNS0812 Flanagan Assumes Command of VT-2 Doer Birds,
 story by Lt. Sky Road Webb, NAS Whiting Field
 Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR STATION WHITING FIELD, MILTON, Fla. (CNS) -- In a Change of Command ceremony recently Cmdr. William J. Flanagan Jr., relieved Cmdr. Kevin Hogan, as Training Squadron TWO (VT-2) commanding officer. The ceremony was held at Whiting Field's new Joint Primary Aircraft Training System Simulator Facility. NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer, Capt. D. Wayne Nelms, was the guest speaker.

Flanagan, a native of Philadelphia, Pa., and graduate of Holy Ghost Preparatory School in 1978, earned a bachelor of arts degree in politics from Saint Joseph's University, in May 1982. In April 1983, he earned his commission through United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School (OCS). Upon graduation from OCS, Flanagan was ordered to his first fleet assignment onboard First Force Service Support Group, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

He earned a master's degree in business administration from Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, Fla., in December 1996. He earned a second master's degree in strategic studies from the Naval War College, Newport, R.I., in November 1997 and he graduated from the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va., in June 1998.

Flanagan's personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, seven Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Combat Action Ribbon, and various campaign and unit awards.

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